



Spades

Kristy Evans Beckwith

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17-year-old Calise Thomas grieves her mother's death. As she trains with Chris and his friends at a cabin in the woods, she realizes why they live in the forest - to hide their identities and profession. With each of them wearing a spade tattoo, she tries to investigate the purpose behind the mysterious mark. At the same time, her attraction for Chris heats up and things get sidetracked when she feels like she's being watched. Something unseen and heavy is in their midst, but no one acknowledges the foul, unsettling presence that grips the air. Instead, they take on their secret profession, leaving Calise to figure out who she is and what she's capable of.

Spades Details

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Laurie says

Calise is a 17 year old who has become emotionally distraught by the demands placed on her by her new step-mother. In a moment of desperation, she decides to end her own life in an attempt to join her deceased mother in heaven. She is rescued by Chris, a gorgeous older man who treats her slashed wrists and represents a new hope to Calise. Most likely this is due to a combination of Florence Nightingale Syndrome and a schoolgirl crush where Calise develops feelings for him and hopes that he feels the same way.

While this book has some serious editing issues, the plot is very compelling and easily manages to just suck the reader right into the story. Anyone who has had to deal with the early death of a parent followed by the introduction of a new step-parent cannot help but feel a bit of empathy for our heroine, even if we don't necessarily agree with how she decided to deal with the situation. But teenagers are impetuous creatures and are not hardly known for making rational decisions.

I was a bit disappointed when I got to the last page of this book ... I can't call it the conclusion or even the end of the story, because it isn't. It isn't even a cliff hanger which I'm always very quick to voice my outrage against, it was more of a dead end. However, there is a set precedence for this seemingly "new trend" writers today have of publishing their stories in installments. Even in literature, history repeats itself. Charles Dickens is an early example of an author who often published his books in installments. In fact, the storyline was shaped based on public opinions of the chapters already in circulation. In recent history, Stephen King published *The Green Mile* in installments, John Saul did the same with his *Black Chronicles*, and probably many others that I'm not aware of. Personally, I would rather read a single 800+ page book with a complete story than 4 or 5 small installments, but I'm impatient like that and don't want to be kept waiting to find out what happens next.

If you enjoy paranormal young adult books, you should definitely give this series a read, but fair warning, you may want to be sure to have the entire series on hand if you are impatient like me and want to continue the story right away.

Lydia says

Thought I would read a free book I'd gotten a while ago. It wasn't my thing.

Wendy says

"Spades, Cave of Mirrors" is the intriguing third book in a series that's filled with mystery and romance. As the story opens Calise and her partner Chris are rigorously training so that she can harness her blossoming powers and prepare for their first mission together. Alone, their housemates away on missions their romance begins to sizzle even when their ex's try to tear them apart. But will the circumstances behind the mysterious death of a former Spade damage their love?

The characters infuse life into the story with their complex personalities. Calise, a suicidal teen has

transformed into a strong-willed, competitive and determined Spade who still suffers from periodic bouts of insecurity. Chris, her coach and partner is level-headed, calm, in love with Calise, but hiding secrets from his past. In this novel the chemistry between the lovers and partners Tre and Porsche, Kevin and Blue still burns, but the couples are faced with problems that may drive a wedge between them. Add to these notable characters the vain, vindictive Vanessa; the persistent, suspicious Charlie and the enigmatic Guardian, Jack. All bring passion and strength to this storyline.

Although there were grammatical errors throughout the text, they in no way detracted from a plot that's absorbing and slowly builds in intensity although the ending will reveal more unanswered questions. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and look forward to reading the next in this series.

Chris G says

This book was a very interesting read and not what I really expected or the outcome for that matter. I normally read too many book than I should so I took a shot with this one after reading some other reviews.

The whole story revolves around or main character Calise who lives in California. Calise believes she has nothing to live after been saved from an attempted suicide. He savior introduces her to a weird group of kids (cult like) and being intrigued by this strange band she is initiated in their group. Feeling like finally that she had a place to fit in to. From there she goes on an epic action filled adventure across the American southwest.

The story brings her for training at their order's secluded training area in Arkansas. It takes until the end of the story to figure out what the group's real purpose is and to find the real truth behind them. This book has a great story which is really hard to write about without giving to much a way.

This story is filled with adventure and action packed fun. If you're looking for a book that is an easy read with lots of twists and turns, then this is the book for you.

Tish says

Maybe this book just wasn't my cup of tea, I thought it was going to be a type of mystery/love story between her and Chris. But in my opinion it was just a story about nothing. I started it and kept thinking something would happen, or be revealed, that it would pick up and it never did. Got it for free on Amazon so can't complain too much.

Catherine says

Review first posted on my blog: thisisjustabookblog.tumblr.com

This book incredibly disappointing and I feel really misled, because it has really good reviews. It averages about 3.8 stars on Goodreads, and there are only 5 reviews under 4 stars on Amazon US (UK only had one review). And I know tastes differ, but this book was just bad. Poorly written, poorly edited, poorly thought

out - just plain poor.

So, let's start with the story. I really felt like I had started the book about a third of the way in, because nothing made sense. I think the author was going for a start-in-the-action kind of thing, which could have been great but this just didn't really make sense. She kept on referring back to events that had just happen, to the point where I felt she should have just written them. There was a really pointless prologue, written from the p.o.v of the character about half-way through the book. The prologue would've been put to much better use if it included the events that happened just before we start. ((view spoiler))

Phillip says

The storyline in Spades is intelligent and unique. Not like most young adult novels. what i enjoyed most was the idea of the haunted house and Calise's struggle to fit in. The cause for her hallucinations was unexpected. I'm curious to see what unfolds in book two. Book one was a dark,sensual,pleasant surprise.

Jenny says

I'm not sure the synopsis explains the story very well. Basically, its about a girl who is pretty brave and depressed, unable to live with her horrible stepmom any longer and how her dad ignores her, she tries to kill herself in the bathroom at an opera they are attending. A mysterious man by the name of Chris saves her and whisks her off to a secret cabin in the middle of nowhere, to train for a new profession with his "friends."

This sounds pretty sinister, which it is, but not Chris himself. He is pretty awesome! His friends, though--

Tru, Kevin, and especially, Blu--want nothing to do with Calise. This makes this new life for her pretty difficult. Even worse, she starts hallucinating right when she gets there, and feels just off. It seems the attic she is staying in is haunted, so it makes for a creepy atmosphere!

The story sucked me right in. I really enjoyed this book overall. It needed a little editing help, and the ending seemed kinda weird--it just kinda ENDED. The characters and the mysteries, and basic plot was very good, though!

I got this one for free from Barnes & Noble, but last I checked it was \$2.99. I would say it is worth that price, and I will be checking out the sequel! 3.5 stars!

Jeff Dawson says

Excellent read!

For a YA book, this is very well written and edited. There are a few issues, but nothing that derails this well thought out story. Kristie is right up there with Trish Dawson and K.S. Haigwood.

The main character, Calise, is a typical messed up teenager. Her mother died, her father remarried and she's mad as hell at the world. Sound familiar? I know, we've heard this before, or have we? Calise attempts to take her life but it is saved by a mysterious man named Chris, who being the "Knight in Shining Armor," takes her under his wings and introduces her to a world far from home. This is where it differs from the pack.

Chris is the member of a secret organization, The Guardians. They make their living stealing jewels. Now, if that hasn't piqued your curiosity, there is an undercurrent story with a paranormal touch. Chris' old partner, JE, disappeared without a trace, or has she?

I don't mind saying it, even at my age, this is a well crafted story and I believe I'll be reading the next one.

A solid four.

Good job Kristie.

Wendy says

This book was difficult to read at first because there seemed to be no logic to a plot that begins with a seventeen year old girl escaping her life with an unloving father and overbearing stepmother by slitting her wrists. She is rescued by a mysterious stranger and is taken to his house instead of a hospital to have her injuries taken care of which doesn't seem plausible unless her injuries weren't severe or he had medical training; neither of which is evident. For half the book I was mystified by Calise's actions as she didn't seem at all like a suicidal teen obsessed with her handsome rescuer. I quickly got sick of her enthrallment with Chris but when he introduces her to his mysterious team of thieves I was pleasantly surprised by the developing characters of Tre, Blue, and Kevin as they clash with Calise. As she begins training with the team Calise gets caught up in the mystery surrounding Chris while learning to adapt to his friends' idiosyncrasies. And through the visions and hallucinations that seem to stalk her the threads of the mystery begin to weave together as the suspense intensifies.

I am looking forward to reading Kristy's second book and know it will be even better.

Logic Boy says

Most often these mysterious saga's often forget the most important element to pour a solidified foundation of the main character(s). This author get's a total A in this department. I will be honest I was taken back by how the main character arrived into her position as a budding adventure character.

The book evolves brilliantly and the story has intrigue as well as some steamy sexual undertones to keep most of us hoping for even a little more. I was charmed by Spade early and often. Occassionally, I felt over exposed to some of the characters lustful desires which seemed to always be present(possibly a little boy crazy). However, the author does an excellent job of enticing the reader, but never crossing the often exploited in so many typical works of adventure fiction.

What is so witty about this book is how the leading lady really is perceived to be a misfit, one who doesn't realize her own innate abilities. Her cast of friends and her leader often seem to exploit that, but of course there is a reasonable explanation as to why that drives you to thumb through for more. I am a sucker for books like this and often complete things feeling violated. This book does just the opposite it leads you to politely ask "may I have anoter"!

Cynthia says

I really enjoyed Spades by Kristy Evans. I think the characters were well thought out and executed rather well. The story was interesting and kept me reading. The only beef I had with this book was the cliffhanger. I was so into this story and then it just abruptly ended. The good news is the second book is available so you can easily purchase it and keep reading.

I think Chris's character was very mysterious and interesting. There were more questions raised with his character instead of answered in this book. At this point, there isn't much romance going on between he and Calise. Whether there even will be isn't certain. I guess I will have to move on to the second book to find out...and I desperately NEED to know!

I like the main character, Calise. Her mother has died, and her father has moved on with a new woman—a woman Calise can't stand. Calise feels as all hope has been lost and just desperately wants to end it all and be with her mother again. Her attempt at suicide failed when Chris found and saved her. He brings her into his super secret world, now it's up to Calise to find the courage and strength to belong.

Chris's friends and co-workers are Tre, Kevin, and Blue. Tre is a fun character, Kevin is kind of indifferent at this point, and Blue is a huffy mean girl. Their personalities are all different therefore they all work really well together in this story.

Overall, I really liked Spades and have already purchased the second book. I absolutely recommend this story if you are a fan of paranormal romance. Right now, Spades book 1 is free on Amazon.

*This e-book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Book Hollow

Lady Entropy says

DNF

Sarah says

I'm not a writer, I can only imagine how difficult it is to try to get your work out there. I've read self-published, first book, first time authors and indi books. But as a reader, my experience with this book was pretty...bad.

The writing was hard to follow, the words, phrases, sentences were so confusing that it didn't make sense at the end. At first I thought maybe this author is from a different country? maybe where she's from they speak that way? Well I checked and she's from here the U.S.

Some scenes were just impossible and with just too many inconsistency! How can this character be able to do that when at first they were doing this? And with so many distractions it was hard to focus on the story and connect with Calise or Christ.

All this time they were training it was to become the perfect thieves! and the author told us vaguely what Christ and his friends were but we were never shown.

I kept waiting for something to happen, there no action at all(except when training) practically nothing was going on. I was so disappointed.

Stacy Sabala says

Book Review- Spades by Kristy Evans

Calise felt her life was dark and no longer worth it. She decided to end it. However a stranger named Chris refused to let her. He saved her life that night in many ways. He physically saved her life then invited her to come with him and join his group.

Chris is a thief and leads a group of young thieves. Tre, Kevin and Blue are around Calise's age. However, they don't like her being there. Blue is down right hateful. Calise is only there because of Chris. She is drawn to him and he affects her intensely. She also knows there is something else going on. She is having strange nightmares and seeing things. She thinks she is losing her mind. She refuses to tell anyone for fear of being sent home. Unfortunately, Chris continues to be hot and cold when he interacts with her.

Her feelings for him are strong and she refuses to be sent home. She tries hard in training when Tre finally is allowed to do so. Calise has to fight for her place and the respect she really would like to have. Her goal is to be part of the group. She does everything she possibly can do so. Even though she is under the shadow of a missing woman that everyone in the group respects.

When she realizes why she is there, she is unsure what she should think and continue. Her future is in the balance.

This book was almost frustrating for me. It was a good story but I couldn't figure out anything that was going on. The author throws something at the reader, then once you start to figure out what is going on it changes. You question everything you were thinking. After reading the book, I'm still unsure what is really going on. The author didn't really answer any of the reader's questions. In fact I was left with more. It drove me crazy. Were the dreams real and mean anything? Who was the mysterious guy? Why was she really there?

There is definitely a lead in for the next installation. The characters were introduced and explored a bit. It seemed that was about all the author gave the reader in this book. I think it is a good storyline but I wish I knew a little more about what is going on. I give it a 3 out of 5.
